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*18 Mar Journal
#16*

March 18, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Briefing on Southern Africa for Members of the
House International Relations Committee,
March 18, 1976

1. Representative Bonker (D.-Wash.) had requested this briefing with the understanding he would invite other members of the full Committee to attend. We agreed so long as it was understood that this was a background briefing for the members and not attributable to the Agency. The briefing was held in Representative Bingham's (D.-N.Y.) office. Although originally it had been suggested we confine ourselves to about half an hour, questions from members continued after the appointed time and we were there for well over an hour.

2. The members attending ranged completely across the Committee's political spectrum. In addition to Representatives Bingham and Bonker, we had Messrs. Fraser, Carr, Dellums, Dent, Harrington, Biester, Bedell, Diggs, and Congresswomen Meyner, and Fenwick. One Committee staffer, Leslie Yates, attended a portion of the briefing. I began with a general current intelligence picture of the situation as we saw it in Southern Africa. This included a brief rundown on Angola, Rhodesia, Zambia, and South Africa. I discussed in some detail the status of negotiations between Ian Smith and Rhodesian Nationalist leader Nkomo. I told the members that much of what was going to transpire in Southern Africa over the next six months depended on these negotiations and a black majority government in Rhodesia. I said that, quite frankly, we saw little prospect that Smith would actually agree to such a government within a time frame which would be acceptable to the nationalists.

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3. I described the various insurgent groups that would play a role in Rhodesia and discussed their backing by China and the USSR. There were, as anticipated, many questions about the Cuban role. I replied that the Cubans were riding the crest of their success in Angola and without question would like to support other liberation movements. Moscow, however, was the real key as the Cubans would find it difficult to operate without support from the Soviet Union. I also said that both Havana and Moscow would have to take into consideration the views of Mozambique, Tanzania, and Zambia and they could not afford to get out ahead of the Africans themselves. In connection with this I noted our feeling that the presidents of the three African nations most directly involved did not, at this time, really want massive infusions of Cubans. I added that this attitude might change, however, if there seemed to be no progress in Rhodesia over the next six months or a year.

4. We discussed the South African position and why Pretoria was pushing Smith to the negotiating table. There were questions about the impact on Rhodesia of Mozambique's border closure and I replied that the South African's probably could handle Rhodesia's import-export shipments without undue strain.

5. There were the usual questions about US policy to which we gave the usual response--the question is best addressed to the State Department--and one from Representative Diggs asking if we had an intelligence liaison relationship with Rhodesia and South Africa. I replied that we had intelligence liaison relationships with many countries, but that I really was not qualified to answer that question specifically. We also had the anticipated question about covert action programs and again the response that I just was not the person to answer.

6. In general, the group was polite and seemed to be interested primarily in getting information, not in scoring points off the Agency or each other. There was no criticism of CIA voiced and I think most of the members found it a useful session.

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cc: DDI
OLC
AD/OCI

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25X1 13. (Unclassified - WPB) INTELLIGENCE BRIEFING Accompanied
[redacted] in the Office of Economic Research, to the office of
Representative Donald Fraser (D., Minn.). He gave Congressman Fraser
an excellent briefing on the Canadian energy situation. Fraser seemed
25X1 impressed [redacted] His questions were apparently answered
to his satisfaction. He was very appreciative.

14. (Unclassified - RJK) BRIEFING Spoke with Tom Smeeton,
Minority Staff, House International Relations Committee, about his
pending request for a briefing for Representative William Broomfield
(R., Mich.) on the Mozambique and Rhodesia situation. He said
Representative Broomfield would like to have Everett Bierman,
Minority Counsel of the Committee, and himself present for the
briefing on 22 March at 9:30 a.m. [redacted] OCI,
has been advised.

15. (Unclassified - RLB) LEGISLATION Talked to Clark
McFadden, Senate Armed Services Committee staff, regarding S. 2784
(prohibiting CIA dealings with clergy). Specifically, I asked Mr. McFadden
if the Defense Department had been requested as we had been to provide
comments on the bill since NSA, DIA, and other DOD components are
specifically dealt with in the bill. Mr. McFadden did not know offhand
whether such a letter had been sent to DOD but promised to check on it
and call me back.

25X1 16. (Unclassified - THW) BRIEFING I accompanied [redacted]
OCI, to the office of Representative Jonathan B. Bingham (D., N. Y.)
to brief members of the House International Relations Committee on
Rhodesia and South Africa. This meeting had been set up by Representative
Don Bonker (D., Wash.). The briefing lasted from 0945 til 1100 hours.
Hepworth is doing a Memorandum for the Record.

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